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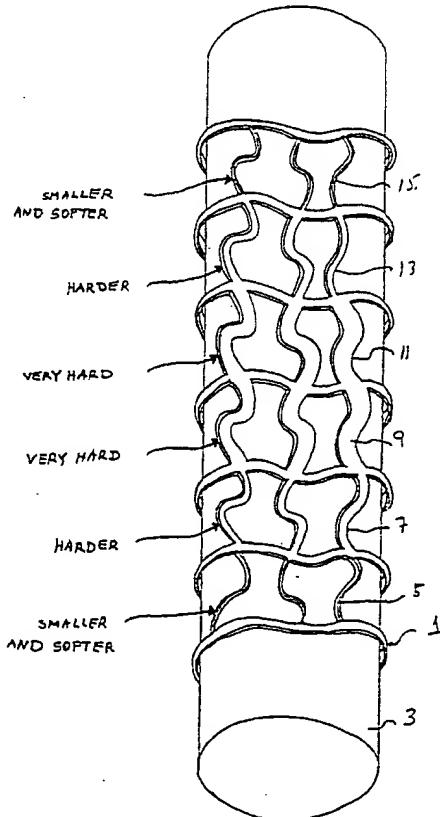
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(54) Title: VARIABLE FLEXIBILITY STENT		
(57) Abstract		

A stent (1) is provided for having variable flexibility and stiffness along its length. The stent (1) comprises portions (5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15) of the stent having different bending and durability characteristics, and may be fabricated, using any of a variety of methods out of any of a variety of materials.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/20695

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A61F 2/06
US CL : 623/1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 623/1, 11, 12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,449,373 A (PINCHASIK) 12 September 1995, entire document.	1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11
X	US 5,443,496 A (SCHWARTZ et al) 22 August 1995, entire document.	1-3, 6-8, 11

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
30 APRIL 1998	21 MAY 1998

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